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People's Daily World

11/21/89

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CPUSA

New York City

Concert will support Thomson defense

Special to the PDW

Poet Vinie Burroughs, keyboard musician and guitarist Guy Davis and folk singer Pete Seeger will perform together in New York next week to raise funds for long-time peace activist Alan Thomson, currently defending himself against a political frameup.

The affair is being held to help pay for the legal expenses of Thomson, executive director of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. Thomson was arrested last February on trumped up federal currency charges. He has denied the charges and has denounced the government's action as a crude frameup.

"My indictment represents a determined effort by the Justice Department to throw a scare into the movement for better people-to-people relations with the Soviet Union," he told the PDW Friday. "It has not worked and it will not work."

"In the months that have elapsed since Thomson's arrest, federal prosecutors continue to drag their heels," said Alan Thomson Defense Committee chair Marvel Cooke. "It is abundantly clear that the public defense will be long, arduous and expensive."

The fund-raising concert "is not only for the

Defense Fund but is very important for everyone in the peace movement," said Jean Smelley, Defense Fund coordinator. "This is an attack upon the peace movement as well as an attack upon the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship."

Among sponsors of the event are actor John Randolph, national chair of the NCASF; Leslie Cagan and Dave Dellinger of the National Committee for Independent Political Action; Angela Davis, Communist Party, USA; Richard Hough-Ross, U.S.-USSR Bridges for Peace; Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz and Doris Anne Younger, Church Women United.

Also, the Rev. Paul Mayer, National Director, Religious Task Force; Jane Midgley, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom; Charlene Mitchell, National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression; Linus Pauling, Nobel Laureate, Chemistry; Libby Frank and Edith Villastrigo, Women Strike for Peace.

The concert is scheduled to be held on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, 2 West 64th St. in Manhattan.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and may be ordered from the Alan Thomson Defense Fund, 163 Third Ave.; New York, NY 10003 or by calling (212) 979-7389. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for \$20.

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